

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Amend claim 1; and

Add claims 14 through 18.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A handheld work machine (100) comprising at least one combustion engine (12) which in operation requires a supply voltage split into an ignition voltage and a control voltage, and comprising a voltage generator which supplies a generator voltage that depends on the rotary speed of the combustion engine (12), which generator voltage is used to generate the supply voltage, characterised in that

the handheld work machine (100) is electrically connected to an additional integrated voltage source (14) that can be plugged to or in or into the a housing (10) of the handheld work machine (100), which additional voltage source only provides the required control voltage and that prior to starting the combustion engine (12) ~~provides the required supply voltage that at this point in time is not yet present, wherein in the handheld work machine the supply voltage required during operation of the combustion engine (10) is split into an ignition voltage and a control voltage, and the additional voltage source (14) only supplies the required control voltage prior to the start of the engine (12).~~

2. (Withdrawn) The handheld work machine according to claim 1, characterised in that

the voltage supplied by the additional voltage source (14) is independent of the rotary speed of the combustion engine (12).

3. (Withdrawn) The handheld work machine according to claim 1, characterised in that

the additional voltage source (14) comprises at least one rechargeable battery (14a).

4. (Withdrawn) The handheld work machine according to claim 3, characterised in that the rechargeable battery (14a) is rechargeable either by an external charging set or by the voltage generator with a charging circuit arranged downstream.

5. (Withdrawn) The handheld work machine according to claim 1, characterised in that the additional voltage source (14) comprises at least one replaceable standard battery (14b).

6. (Withdrawn) The handheld work machine according to claim 1, characterised in that the additional voltage source (14) is integrated in the handheld work machine (100).

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Previously Presented) The handheld work machine according to claim 1, characterised in that the additional voltage source (14) is arranged externally in relation to the housing (10) of the handheld work machine (100) and is electrically connected to the work machine (100) by way of an electrical conductor and a plug-type connection (16).

9. (Previously Presented) The handheld work machine according to claim 8, characterised in that the additional voltage source (14) is electrically connected to further electrical or electronic circuits or further auxiliary devices of the handheld work machine (100), and supplies a voltage to these.

10. (Withdrawn) The handheld work machine according to claim 1, characterised in that a monitoring device (17) is provided which monitors the charge

state of the additional voltage source (14) and indicates said charge state by a visual and/or acoustic signal.

11. (Withdrawn) The handheld work machine according to claim 1, characterised in that a monitoring device is provided for acquiring the charge option or recharge option of the additional voltage source (14).

12. (Withdrawn) The handheld work machine according to claim 1, characterised in that the additional voltage source (14) can be switched on and off by way of a start / stop switch (13).

13. (Withdrawn) The handheld work machine according to claim 1, characterised in that the additional voltage source (14) is electrically connected to an electric starter motor that is provided for automatically starting the combustion engine (12) of the handheld work machine (100).

14. (New) A method for starting and operating a handheld work machine comprising at least one combustion engine that in operation requires a supply voltage which is split into an ignition voltage and a control voltage, and comprising a voltage generator that provides the supply voltage, which depends upon the rotary speed of the combustion engine, said method comprising the steps of:

electrically connecting an additional voltage source to the handheld work machine;

supplying the control voltage for the at least one combustion engine from the additional voltage source prior to and while starting the at least one combustion engine; and

supplying the control voltage for the at least one combustion engine from the voltage generator after starting the at least one combustion engine.

15. (New) The method for starting and operating a handheld work machine of claim 14, further comprising the step of supplying the ignition voltage for the at least one

combustion engine from the voltage generator while starting the at least one combustion engine.

16. (New) The method for starting and operating a handheld work machine of claim 14, wherein the additional voltage source is constant and the amount of voltage supplied does not depend on the rotary speed of the combustion engine.

17. (New) The method for starting and operating a handheld work machine of claim 14, further comprising the step of disconnecting the additional power source from the handheld work machine after starting the at least one combustion engine.

18. (New) The method for starting and operating a handheld work machine of claim 14, wherein the additional voltage source is integrated with a housing of the handheld work machine and is electrically connected to the handheld work machine by being plugged in or into the housing.

19. (New) The method for starting and operating a handheld work machine of claim 14, wherein the additional voltage source is disposed externally to a housing of the handheld work machine and is electrically connected to the handheld work machine by an electrical conductor and a plug-type connection.

20. (New) The method for starting and operating a handheld work machine of claim 19, wherein the additional voltage source is electrically connected to additional electrical or electronic circuits or auxiliary devices of the handheld work machine and supplies voltage thereto.